

Library Science

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# THE MICHIGAN LIBRARIAN

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN  
GENERAL LIBRARY

Library Science Study Hall

JUN 23 1954

*June 1954*

*M.L.A. 1954 Conference Highlights and Program*

*Published by the*

MICHIGAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

VOLUME 20  
NUMBER 2

*Nominations Issue*

# THE MICHIGAN LIBRARIAN

THE OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE MICHIGAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

JUNE

1954

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VOLUME 20  
NUMBER 2

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## From The President

If your District Meeting had the film *Common Heritage* you know that this picturization of the regional library service in Tennessee is a tool we have needed. Any fuzziness of our information in regard to what county and regional library service is, what it can do, and what it does not do clears up as we watch an entertaining picture. With MLA dedicated to the extension and development of library service in Michigan it is important that every section, committee, and district considers showing this film for the information of its members, and that every member of MLA try to have the film shown to lay groups in areas which have no service, or where existing libraries need the strength that they can develop by combining their resources. The Michigan State Library owns the film and lends it on request.

The Interim Study Committee has been standing by during the legislative session. Now that the Legislative Committee has successfully killed 5 bills which would nibble into the libraries' share of penal fines, has protected the state aid allotment of \$362,000, and has gathered a wealth of information concerning our legislative status, the Interim Study Committee will meet to plan for the future. On the docket are two major questions: Shall we consider a change in the State Aid bill which will make the allotment of establishment funds more flexible? Shall we consider a new form of budget request, combining all of the items for special projects under state aid, instead of listing them as special items in the State Library budget?

Committee reports submitted for the District Meetings:

**Finance:** A series of recommendations on conference costs, dues, and publications submitted to the Executive Board.

**Scholarship:** Publication of list of library scholarships available in Michigan. Study of workshop scholarship program. Contributions to March *Michigan Librarian*. Collections at District Meetings.

**Intellectual freedom:** Panels on "Positive Book Selection" for Districts V and VII. Article in this issue of ML. Participation in Conference.

**Planning:** Studies of possibility of Rural Reading Conference for 1955, and of extent and nature of in-service training opportunities in Michigan.

**Membership:** Special efforts at District Meetings and Conference in addition to extensive mailing programs. Total 1954 membership as of April 22 — 1096.

**Conference:** Groundwork laid for November 3, 4, 5, and 6 in Detroit. Announcements soon.

**Legislative:** Newsletter, contributions to March ML, Legislative Representatives meeting in February, and all necessary work to kill 5 bills and to secure the state aid allotment.

Other committees (such as nominating, etc.) are accomplishing their work on the time schedule assigned to them. Sections are deep in plans for their institutes. The MLA year is more than half over!

And lest it gets into print nowhere else, I report that on March 28, John James was born to Mr. and Mrs. James Tintera, neatly sandwiched between *Michigan Librarian* deadlines and disturbing not a whit his mother's competent handling of the work of the Executive Secretary.

Ruth Warncke



## Dates To Remember

### LIBRARY WORKSHOPS

June 28-July 2

Higgins Lake

July 12-16

St. Mary's Lake

August 16-20

Marquette

M.L.A. CONFERENCE

November 3-6

Hotel Statler, Detroit

## The Nominations - 1954-55

In accordance with the provisions of the Constitution of the Michigan Library Association, the Committee on Nominations presents the following candidates for office in the Association for the coming year. Official ballots are sent to all members in good standing. Results will be announced at the annual conference November 3-6, Statler Hotel, Detroit.

### FOR FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT (President-elect)



**CHARLES L. FOLLO**, Supervisor, Upper Peninsula Area, University of Michigan Extension Service, Escanaba, Michigan. A. B. Degree — Western Michigan College of Education 1932. M. A. Degree — University of Chicago 1943. Rural school teacher Bay de Noc, Ensign and Cornell Townships, Delta County, 1923-28. Social Science teacher Escanaba High School 1934-47. Director of Adult Education Escanaba Public Schools 1944-47. Extension Supervisor University of Michigan since 1947. Served as member of Escanaba Library Board since 1938; member Escanaba Civil Service Commission 1941-47 (chairman 1943-46); member Escanaba School Board since 1949 (president 1952-53); member Historical Society of Michigan (president 1952-54); member Michigan Library Association (second vice president 1953-54, member Legislative Committee 1952-54, member Interim Study Committee 1952-53, member Intellectual Freedom Committee 1952-53); Michigan Council on Adult Education. Adult Education Association USA; NEA, Michigan Education Association, American Political Science Association, Phi Delta Kappa.



**WILLIAM CHAIT**: Director, Kalamazoo Public Library. Brooklyn College, A.B. 1934; Pratt Institute Library School, B.S. in L.S. 1935; Columbia University School of Library Service, M.S. in L.S. 1938. Junior and Senior library assistant, Brooklyn Public Library, 1935-1941; Branch Librarian, Brooklyn Public Library, 1941-1945; Service Command Librarian, Second Service Command, U. S. Army, 1945-1946; Chief, In-Service Training and Personnel Control, Milwaukee Public Library, 1946-48; Director, Kalamazoo Public Library, 1948 to date. Member A.L.A., M.L.A., and M.E.A.; Treasurer, Brooklyn Public Library Staff Association, 1941-1943; Treasurer, United Staff Association of the Public Libraries of the City of New York, 1943-1945; Member A.L.A. Committee on Annuities, Pensions and Life Insurance, 1946-1950; A.L.A. Committee on Relations with Business Groups, 1952 to date; Chairman, M.L.A. Public Relations Committee, 1949-1951; Chairman, M.L.A. District I, 1950-1951; Chairman, M.L.A. Adult Education Section, 1950-1952; Member, M.L.A. Salary, Staff and Tenure Committee, 1950-1953; Chairman, M.L.A. Conference Committee, 1953; Chairman, M.L.A. Finance Committee, 1953 to date.

### FOR SECOND VICE-PRESIDENT

**MRS. LOUISE TREMAINE OWENS**, Born, raised, and graduated from High School in Cheboygan, Michigan. B.A. from University of Michigan, 1918. Finished Detroit Public Library Training class in 1919. On Detroit Public Library staff, 1919-1921. Assistant in Wayne County Library, 1921-1929. Head of W.P.A. Library Project in Upper Peninsula, 1941-1943. On Planning Committee of M.L.A. 1953-54. Reference Librarian and Cataloguer, Escanaba Carnegie Public Library, 1947 to date.

**PEARL L. PETERSON**, Acting Librarian, Menominee County Library, Stephenson Michigan. B.A., Concordia College, Moorhead, Minn., 1948; B.L.S. U. of Wisc. 1949. Assistant



Librarian, Menominee County Library, Stephenson, Michigan 1949-53. Acting Librarian Menominee County Library, 1953 to date. Member A.L.A., M.L.A. Secretary-Treasurer, M.L.A., District 7, 1951-53.

#### FOR SECRETARY

GERTRUDE VAN ZEE, Cataloger, Western Michigan College of Education, Kalamazoo. A.B., Hope College, 1934; A.B.L.S., University of Michigan, 1941; A.M.L.S., University of Michigan, 1945. Junior Cataloger, University of Michigan, 1940-41; Assistant Cataloger, Michigan State College, 1941-42; Cataloger and Assistant Librarian, Kalamazoo College, 1942-52; Instructor in Cataloging, Pennsylvania State College, summer 1950; Cataloger, Western Michigan College, 1952 to date. Member, A.L.A.; M.L.A.; Chairman, District I, M.L.A., 1947-48.

CLOVER M. FLANDERS, Chief Extension Librarian, University of Michigan General Library. PHB, University of Chicago, 1929; BSLS, University of Illinois, 1931. Branch Librarian, Berwyn (Ill.) Public Library, 1931-1935. Reference Librarian, Highland Park (Ill.) Public Library, 1935-1942. Librarian, School of Education, University of Michigan, 1942-1944. Librarian, University of Michigan Detroit Branch, 1944-1948. Present position, 1948 to date. Member: ALA, MLA, Ann Arbor Library Club, Friends of the Ann Arbor Library. Chairman, MLA Adult Education Section 1947-1948; Chairman, MLA Public Relations Committee, 1948-1949; Chairman, MLA Institute Committee, 1950-1952.

#### FOR TREASURER

ROGER E. WALCOTT, Librarian, Ferndale Public Library. A.B., University of Michigan, 1947; B.S. in L.S., University of Michigan, 1948. Page, 1936-1942, Grand Rapids Public Library. United States Army Air Force 1943-1946. Circulation Assistant, Flint Public Library, 1948-1949. Librarian, Hall-Fowler Memorial Library, Ionia, 1949-1952. Vice-Chairman District 4, MLA, 1951. Librarian, Ferndale Public Library, 1952 to the present. Chairman, Salary Staff and Tenure Committee, MLA, 1954. Member ALA, MLA, AEA, Kiwanis, and Masons, Detroit Juniors, and Suburban Librarians Association.

KEITH DOMS, City Librarian, Midland Public Library, 1951 to date. B.A. University of Wisconsin, 1942; B.S. in L.S., University of Wisconsin Library School, 1947; U.S. Army, 1942-1946; Sub-professional Assistant, District of Columbia, Public Library, 1946; City Librarian, Concord, New Hampshire, 1947-1951; Secretary, New England Library Association, 1948-1950; First Vice-President, New Hampshire Library Association, 1950-1951; Editor, NEWS LETTER of the New Hampshire Library Association, 1948-1950; Editor, City of Midland, Annual Report, 1951 to date; Member, M.L.A., A.L.A., A.E.A.; Member, M.L.A. Legislative Committee, 1952-1953; Member, M.L.A. Intellectual Freedom Committee, 1952-1953, Vice Chairman, M.L.A. Adult Education Section, 1953; Treasurer, M.L.A., 1953 to date.

#### FOR MEMBER-AT-LARGE (Professional group 1954-56)

ELIZABETH C. MC PHAIL, Chief of Division, Walker Branch, Detroit Public Library. A.B., Wayne University, 1926; Detroit Public Library Apprentice Class, 1927; Children's Librarian, 1927-1949, D.P.L., Librarian III, 1950-1952, D.P.L., Chief of Division, 1953-; Member, A.L.A., M.L.A., Metropolitan Library Club, Detroit, Social Workers' Club, Detroit; Past Secretary-Treasurer, Children's Section, M.L.A.; Committees: Spring Institute committee, Children's Section, M.L.A.; Regional Chairman, Membership committee of Children's Library Association, A.L.A., 1951-52; Member and Chairman, Membership committee, M.L.A. 1950-52; Constitutional committee, School and Children's Section, M.L.A. 1952; Member, Relations With Publishers committee, M.L.A., 1952 to date.

MRS. DOROTHY T. HAGERMAN, Extension Service Librarian, University of Michigan, Grand Rapids. BBSL, Simmons College. American Library in Paris, France, 1926-27. Grand Rapids Public Library, Branch Librarian, 1929-1953; Director of Public Relations, 1953; Retired, October, 1953. Member, A.L.A.; M.L.A.; Grand Rapids Librarians' Club. Secretary Treasurer, M.L.A., 1937-39; President, 1940-41; Various M.L.A. committees, including Legislative and Planning. Michigan State Board for Libraries, 1941-49, chairman 1944 and 1949. Executive Secretary, A.L.A. Trustees Section, 1950-53.

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### *Summer Library School Courses*

SUMMER SESSION PROGRAM IN THE DEPARTMENT OF LIBRARIANSHIP  
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The 1954 Summer Session will extend from Monday, June 21 through Friday, July 30th. In the Department of Librarianship, the following courses will be offered. The courses numbered 200 and 300 are open *only* to undergraduates in this field. Those numbered 400 will carry both graduate and undergraduate credit and those numbered 500 carry graduate credit only.

202	Reading Interests of Children .....	3	semester	hours	credit
360	Organization of Library Materials .....	2	semester	hours	credit
362	The Library in the Modern Community .....	2	semester	hours	credit
380	Field Assignment .....	1-3	semester	hours	credit
402	Reading Interests of Young Adults .....	2	semester	hours	credit
403	Selection of Reading Materials .....	2	semester	hours	credit
405	Curriculum Enrichment Materials .....	2	semester	hours	credit
411	Reference Service .....	2	semester	hours	credit
511	Subject Bibliography .....	2	semester	hours	credit
509	History of Books and Printing .....	2	semester	hours	credit
570	Advanced Classification and Cataloging .....	2	semester	hours	credit

Miss Mate Graye Hunt, Assistant Director, Dr. Florence Van Hoesen, Miss Hazel Brown and Miss Gertrude Van Zee will comprise the faculty. Those wishing to apply for admission to the Graduate Division should write in advance to that office for application forms and should send a transcript of their college record. For further information please write in advance of registration to Miss Alice Louise Le Fevre, Director of the Department of Librarianship, Western Michigan College of Education, Kalamazoo, Michigan. Bulletins will be sent on request.

REGISTRATION FOR SUMMER SESSION

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**Quick Look at District Meetings**

District I      Three Rivers      April 14, 1954

The changing age was placed firmly in its historic setting at the District I meeting. In the film *The Common Heritage*, showing the development of regional library service in Tennessee, saddlebags were contrasted with bookmobiles as carriers of information and ideas. In the discussion led by Mrs. Fannie Noonan after the film showing, the methods suggested for developing and financing newer library techniques and services were as old as man — community cooperation and individual leg work motivated by a great desire for improvement.

After lunch served in the Presbyterian Church (carafes of coffee on each table!) Miss S. Janice Key, executive secretary of the Public Libraries Division of ALA traced the genesis of our newest concepts of library service. Franklin, Jefferson, Carnegie, Theodore Roosevelt and other thinkers would be in complete accord with the ideas of extending our services into remote areas, maintaining free access to all kinds of information and stimulating our readers to know and understand socially significant material. Are we keeping up? The answer has an antique patina, too—"Yes — and no."

The meeting under the chairmanship of Mrs. Beverly Richardson of Three Rivers Public Library and Mrs. Marie Burris, trustee of Sturgis Public Library moved with snap and efficiency. The 125 participants had time to examine the book exhibit from the State Library, and to visit with one another. Miss Anna Lindblom, newest State Board for Libraries member who was attending her first District Meeting brought greetings from the Board, and Ruth Warncke, MLA president, reported on MLA progress. Sixteen libraries were represented by trustees, and the town was hung with welcome banners. A gala day!

District V      Ithaca      April 8, 1954

The district meetings have started off very well. Both meetings have been well attended, 90 at the District V and about 125 at District I. Those that attended seemed very pleased to have participated in the meetings.

District V held its annual spring meeting at the Thompson Home Library in Ithaca. Started at 10:00 A. M. and was all over by 2:30.

Reports were given by Mr. Kohlstedt, State Board for Libraries, Mrs. Fyan, State Library and Mrs. Yabroff, M.L.A. Following the business meeting, the librarians had a panel discussion on Book Selection Policies in Controversial Fields. Those participating were Mr. James McTaggart, Mr. Stanley Tanner, Miss Dorothy Omstead, and Mr. Lee Lownsbury.

At the trustee's meeting, Rev. Allen Gray talked to the group on the Duties and Responsibilities of the Trustee. He emphasized the fact the library represents the great cultural tradition and the necessity of the trustee and librarian to sell the library to the community, and also the need for the trustee to work closely with the community and the librarian.

After lunch served at the Presbyterian Church, Mrs. Alice Turner Miller introduced the speaker, Dr. J. Stanley Harker, President of Alma College. He set forth these educational principles:

1. Learn to look within or know thyself.
2. Learn to look outward or to know the rest of the world.
3. Learn to look upward or to know our God.

He said that if we do not follow these principles we should all end up in futility. His educational program for the future is a new generation scientifically trained but with Christian principles.

### ***Muster***

**HONORED:** Mary P. Parsons, Visiting professor of Library Science at the University of Michigan, elected to honorary life membership in the New Zealand Library Association. Recognition conferred for invaluable service given by Miss Parsons in setting up the New Zealand Library School and serving as its first director, 1946-47.

**DIED:** Elizabeth Miller Gordon (Mrs. Morse Gordon), November 18, 1953. Former staff member of the Grand Rapids Public Library, librarian of the Union High School Branch and in the Mackinac Island Library.

**DIED:** Mrs. Alma Huggins, librarian, East Lansing Public Library, April 7 after a long illness. Member of M.L.A. and A.L.A.

**APPOINTED:** Ethel Walker Yabroff, President-elect of M.L.A. to membership of the State Committee for Michigan Week. Gertrude Hale, head librarian, East Lansing Public Library.

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## MLA LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

H. G. Johnston, *Chairman*

### Legislative Appropriations

Final library appropriations for the coming year are as follows:

Grants to local libraries	\$362,000
Michigan State Library	424,246
State Board for Libraries	2,000

### State Aid accomplishments

Although efforts to provide for increased appropriations and for special projects of the State Library were not successful, they were responsible for creating among legislators an increasing awareness of library needs. Included in the information made available to legislators are the following facts on how state aid has helped to improve the Michigan library picture.

1. Thousands of people are receiving library service today who had no public library in 1937.

In 1937, 27% of Michigan's population had no public library service.

In 1953, only 13% were without library service.

This tremendous gain has been accomplished despite an increase of over 23% in Michigan's population.

2. 16 county libraries have been established.

In 1937, Michigan had only 5 county libraries.

In 1953, 16 county libraries were in existence as a result of establishment grants and 4 other county libraries had received some state aid.

3. Local tax support has increased through incentives in state aid law.

In 1937, average local tax support was \$.54 per capita.

In 1953, local tax support was \$1.56 per capita.

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4. More books for Michigan people have been purchased.

Two million volumes have been added to public libraries since 1938.

Since half of the state aid money is used for the purchase of books, many of the above volumes are a direct result of state aid.

This increase in books still provides only 1 1/10 books per person.

5. Improved public library personnel has resulted.

Professionally trained librarians have increased from 480 in 1949 to 616 at the present.

This increase was accomplished despite a national shortage of 18,000 trained librarians.

6. More bookmobiles now provide wider areas of service.

State aid money has been used to help purchase many of the bookmobiles in Michigan.

37 bookmobiles now serve both rural and urban people.

14 of these have been placed in service since 1948.

### Year-round Program

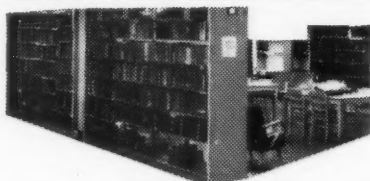
Many individual librarians and trustees are to be commended for their work toward increased state aid and for their cooperation in helping to defeat the five bills relating to penal fine legislation.

Plans and requests for the next legislative session are not yet formed but lack of these should not deter M.L.A. members from continuing their work with legislators during the summer and fall. An effective year-round program is essential to successful legislation. Talks with legislators concerning local aims and needs will benefit the library cause in future sessions. Equally important are contacts with new legislative candidates in the coming election.

### State Library Building

The status of new quarters for the State Library is even more indefinite at this time. It had been hoped that a new justice building would provide library quarters, but recently, it has been suggested that another office building be the next structure on the building program.

If this plan were to be followed, it would cause even further delay in accommodating the State Library. Letters to Senator Hittle, Chairman of the State Office Building Committee, concerning the urgent need for the new library quarters would aid the State Library in their efforts.



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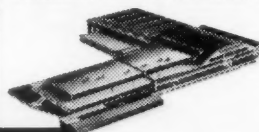
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## ***Training Great Books Discussion Leaders In Michigan***

The Great Books Foundation will hold an in-residence institute for training Great Books discussion leaders this summer in Michigan. Because of the success of two similar ventures, one in California and one in New Hampshire, the Foundation believes that this institute will be particularly useful for small and medium-sized towns which have previously been unable to initiate discussion programs because of a lack of trained leaders. The course is open to laymen as well as librarians.

The Michigan Great Books Institute will be held at Central Michigan College of Education, Mt. Pleasant, from July 10 through July 16. Two staff members will be in residence with the training group which will have an opportunity for intensive training in the techniques of leading a group, and for practice under critical guidance, using materials from the regular Great Books series. A fee of \$15.00 for room, board and tuition will be charged, to defray part of the costs of the course. A fee of \$5.00 will be charged to non-resident participants. Housing facilities will be provided in one wing of a college residence hall, with the recreation facilities of the college. All reading materials to be used in the course will be provided by the Foundation.

Registration may be made directly to the Program Department, the Great Books Foundation, 37 South Wabash Avenue, Chicago 3, Illinois.

The objective of the 1954 Michigan Summer Institute is to train Great Books Discussion Leaders who will lead groups in the smaller cities and towns throughout the state. Here is a splendid opportunity to get a short concentrated course in discussion technique.

Martin Cohen, *Chairman*  
Adult Education Section

## ***1954 M.L.A. Conference Highlights***

An exciting and interesting program is shaping up for the 1954 Conference at the Statler Hotel in Detroit November 3 to 6. This year again the conference will run four days from Wednesday through Saturday, affording more time for dynamic meetings and for seeing old friends and shopping and touring Detroit. "A Changing Age — Are Libraries Keeping Up?" is the theme on which

the program and the exhibits are built.

Here are a few program highlights which have already been confirmed. The theme speaker on Wednesday will be Ransom L. Richardson, editor of the *ALA Bulletin*. The first general session on Wednesday evening will open with a program by the Wayne University Glee Club, followed by a reception hosted by the libraries in the Detroit metropolitan area. Film programs with evaluating discussions are planned for Wednesday and Thursday afternoons. On Thursday there will be a morning meeting on educational TV, radio, and mass communications, with a sample library television program conducted by Dr. C. Walter Stone of the University of Illinois Library School. Tell your friends to watch for you, for we may actually get it televised on the spot. At the evening general session Dr. Walton E. Cole, pastor of the First Congregational Church of Detroit and former member of the State Board for Libraries will be presented by the Trustees Section. The many new libraries around Detroit will play host to MLA on tours scheduled for Friday afternoon, and on Friday evening William L. Shirer, noted author and public affairs analyst will address the banquet.

Section meetings are planned as follows: Wednesday — Adult Education and Cataloging Section meetings; Intellectual Freedom Committee Panel entitled, "A Positive Approach to Book Selection." Friday — Reference, County, Hospital, and School and Children's Sections luncheons.

Plans so far for Saturday include a summary session, conference luncheon, School and Children's Section meeting, and a headline speaker to be announced.

You will want to get your hotel reservations in early.

### ***Room Rates***

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Y.M.C.A. \$2.00, 2.50



# 1954 M. L. A. CONFERENCE PROGRAM

HOTEL STATLER — DETROIT

NOVEMBER 3-6, 1954

## Wednesday, November 3, 1954

- |               |  |                            |
|---------------|--|----------------------------|
| 10:30 - 12:00 | Section Meetings   | Adult Education Section    |
| 12:15 - 2:00  | Section Luncheons  | Adult Education Section    |
| 2:30 - 4:00   | Theme Meeting  |                            |
|               | Ransom L. Richardson, Editor, <i>ALA Bulletin</i>  |                            |
| 4:30 - 6:00   | Film Program   |                            |
| 8:30 - 10:00  | First General Session  | Wayne University Glee Club |
|               | Report — President Warncke   | Headline Speaker           |
| 10:00         | Informal Reception, Metropolitan libraries   |                            |
|               | Music, refreshments, an opportunity to meet your Officers hosted by the libraries of the metropolitan area |                            |

## Thursday, November 4, 1954 — TRUSTEE DAY

- |               |   |
|---------------|---|
| 8:00 - 10:00  | Breakfasts, Sections and Committees   |
| 10:00 - 12:00 | Second General Session, Theme Meeting   |
|               | Educational TV, featuring Dr. Stone of Detroit Public Library   |
|               | Trustee Board Meeting   |
| 12:15 - 3:00  | Section Luncheons and Meetings  |
|               | Trustee Section Luncheon, Business Meeting, and Program   |
|               | Joseph L. Rooney, trustee, Owosso Public Library, moderator for panel "Your Job as a Library Trustee"               |
|               | Public Relations Committee, speaker Dr. Mary Duncan Carter (luncheon meeting)                                       |
| 3:30 - 5:00   | Catalog Section Luncheon  |
|               | Exhibitors Open House   |
|               | "A positive approach to book selection" panel sponsored by Intellectual Freedom Committee                           |
| 5:00 - 6:00   | Film Program  |
| 8:30 - 10:00  | Third General Session (sponsored by Trustees Section)   |
|               | Speaker, Dr. Walton Cole, Detroit clergyman, former member State Board for libraries, long-time friend of libraries |

## Friday, November 5, 1954

- |               |   |
|---------------|---|
| 8:00 - 10:00  | Breakfasts, Sections and Committees   |
| 10:00 - 11:30 | Fourth General Session — "MLA in your future"   |
| 12:00 - 2:00  | Section Luncheons   |
|               | Hospital Section  |
|               | Reference Section   |
|               | County Library Section  |
|               | College Section (Wayne Univ.)   |
| 2:00          | Tours to new buildings (your choice of a group of exciting new libraries in the various fields) |
| 6:30          | Conference banquet, Hotel Statler, speaker WILLIAM L. SHIRER                                    |

## Saturday, November 6, 1954

- |               |   |
|---------------|---|
| 8:00 - 10:00  | Breakfasts  |
| 10:00 - 12:00 | Fifth General Session   |
|               | Conference High-lights (program similar to the most successful one last year) |
| 12:15 - 3:00  | Conference Luncheon   |
|               | Mrs. Arthur A. Yabroff, President-elect, presiding                            |
|               | Speaker, LOIS FISHER, cartoon-lecture, "Lost art of picture writing"          |
| 3:00 - 5:00   | Meeting of Old and New Executive Boards, Committee and Section Chairmen       |

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# The Acorns of Intellectual Freedom

by Jean Worth,

Editor Menominee Herald Leader

(article written at the request of the Intellectual Freedom Committee, M.L.A.)

Freedom, said St. Thomas Aquinas, is a spiritual prerogative. It frees men from the restraint of matter. It is like the flight of a bird whose wings free it from the earth and give it the limitless horizons of the upper air.

Freedom, said Poet Robert Frost, is being easy in your harness.

Intellectual freedom is the mother of all freedoms, as thought is the mother of all action.

The support of intellectual freedom is an obligation of all who advocate liberty, but it is easier to see this truth as an abstract principle than always to practice it in the hurried judgments of our daily lives.

Intellect is the power of thought, but freedom is harder to define, it means different things in different times and places. A condition which may be regarded by one people as free may be judged by another as bondage.

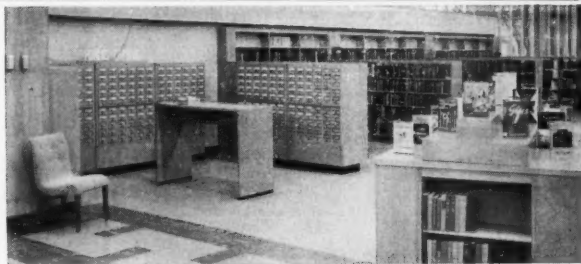
We Americans take pride in our country as

the "Land of the Free" and truly America has provided a climate in which freedom has flourished wonderfully. Our nation was born in a Declaration of Independence which stated as a founding principle that all men are created equal and endowed by their Creator with unsunderable rights to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. This is as fine a charter for freedom as has been set down by men. But freedom dwells most truly in the practices of men, not in their declarations and their laws. Freedom cannot be described for declaration of inalienable legality. Like safety, it is often not fully appreciated until lost. It is seldom to its heirs the precious coin of liberty which it was to those who earned it.

To America came many persons seeking freedoms which they could not find in the Old World. They established themselves and were free to practice their faiths, but some did not extend this freedom to other faiths. Patrick Henry said "Give me liberty or give me death!" as he accused the British of trying to reduce the colonists to "chains and slavery," but chains and slavery were familiar

## Topeka Selects Library Bureau Equipment for New Building

Library Bureau's Planning Service gave technical help to both the Librarian and the Architects of the Public Library of Topeka, Kansas. The authorities feel well repaid for their confidence in placing this responsibility in Library Bureau hands. The equipment for every department makes this an outstanding achievement in informal and functional appointments.



Circulation area — informally treated — takes advantage of excellent light for catalog, reference and reading areas.



Informal reading area... record shelving alcove in background.



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in his Virginia. He did not ask liberty for everyone, yet he was among the authors of the American concept of freedom. It lives and changes.

Everyone loves freedom in a loose conception of the word as permission to live as he pleases, but freedom as a generality is without much meaning. Americans, comparatively, are very free, but we are not simply free, nor wholly free, we are specifically free from some restraint, or free to do something. And when we choose a freedom, we give up other freedoms. This is inevitable and must be comprehended for understanding of freedom.

We are free by limitation of restraint. If everyone were free to do as he pleased, the result would be that no one could be very free. We would have a tyranny and the person who could seize most power would exercise it for his freedom. Freedom needs bounds to set it off from license.

The conditions under which our pioneers lived contributed strongly to the birth and growth of the American concept that men should have something to say about the conditions under which they live. Many of the leaders of colonial America did not think highly of freedom; they believed that the common man needed to be controlled by strong hands.

Some of the conditions which made it easy to achieve freedom in early America have disappeared and others have changed. Minorities can no longer move into new country and make a new start. The frontier has disappeared. No longer can parties in a difference both have their own way; they must compromise their differences today and if freedom for one faction is to be increased, it means a corresponding loss of freedom for the other. To preserve our liberties under populous present conditions it is necessary in our democracy for a majority of the people to understand and accept these controlling conditions.

The ancient empires of the world gave the greatest freedom to their rulers and very little freedom to the common man. In Greece, and in Rome, which had slave societies, many of our most important ideas of freedom were born and the common man slowly won more and more freedom for himself and reduced the special freedoms enjoyed by the ruling class.

#### Democratic Freedom

Life in the American colonies of England

shaped our special kind of democratic freedom. It wasn't all new, but here it took on distinctive form and impressive size. American freedom cannot be judged by the number of choices which its people are free to make. Our freedom's chief quality is that it lets the people set up their choices as well as to choose among them.

To the degree which people choose rightly, they retain their democratic self-rule and their freedoms. History is full of men who sought to gain more freedoms for themselves by taking them away from other men. And history is full of men and women who have been willing to die for the right to worship and think and speak in their own way. Though the action is not always deliberate or intended, this see-saw effort to tyrannize and to free goes on unendingly and every people makes choice. Many tyrannical thoughts are offered in the guise of freedoms and sometimes men honestly err in failing to identify freedom's way and sometimes they foresake it for a promise of something more alluring.

Often they reject history's urging of trial of thought by free and open contest because they want hurried action to deal with a problem of the moment — to still an angry voice, to silence a critic, to ban an advocate of an unpopular cause, to ease friction, to gain conformity, to serve a hundred causes that excite and fade away. And to meet these challenges, to gain a quick victory in an incident, the principles of freedom are suspended, or limited or killed. A people may, in this long conflict, triumph over threats to public tranquillity in a thousand little skirmishes by enforcing conformity, only to find that the suppression has destroyed the atmosphere without which freedom — no matter what its legal guarantees — cannot thrive.

Freedom is always under attack and the need for its use — which is more important than its defense — is constant and it is difficult. "One should never," wrote Henrik Ibsen "put on one's best trousers to go out in to fight for freedom." Freedom's fighters often are in a good light for posterity, but poorly illuminated in their own time. They uphold a timeless, tried and tired principle of tolerant trial of diversity against a hot and hasty action promising not only relief from threat, but vengeance.

The truth, says St. John in the New Testament, shall make you free. In wordly affairs the truth sometimes has many faces and

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is hard to identify. Man's quest of it is helped by trial and where his intellect is not free for inquiry and choice he is hampered. Here in America, where we have achieved and inherited so much freedom, the old faiths and the old truths and freedoms are healthier in our time than in the places where they were born. They have the vigor of freedom.

No universal code can fix the obligations of free men toward intellectual freedom, because the specific problems of freedom are ever changing. A librarian who, with firm patience, upholds the right to circulate controversial books may do more for freedom than one who recommends tracts on freedom, but accedes to its erosion by the poor of mind who would deny to others the books which they dislike. Freedom does not live in prohibitions and protections, but rather in the testy tumult of life, and intellectual freedom can have no result without expression. Unexercised, it is sterile.

#### Freedom's Worst Enemy

But there is a general constant for the support of freedom. It has been known as long as the problem of freedom. St. Thomas Aquinas stated it more than seven centuries ago.

The worst enemy of freedom, said St. Thomas, is ignorance. Freedom is based on man's ability to know his goal and the means that lead to the goal. Ignorance prevents a man from seeking either the proper goal or the right means to the goal. In the search for happiness man must conquer the enemies of his freedom. Only knowledge of the true significance of his acts will give man the mastery of his acts. Only the mastery of his acts will lead him to his goal. Man achieves perfect happiness by his free, deliberate, controlled actions. The will always follows the intellect, said St. Thomas.

The conquest of ignorance is not achieved by such a simple thing as universal schooling nor general exposure of a people to learning. It can be gained only by widespread recognition of the responsibility to support goodness, and the acknowledgment that the process requires learning. Text book learning in school days will not suffice. It requires lifelong devotion. Without learning, the support of freedom spends its strength in the exploration of a thousand blind alleys. It is futile to support freedom with a flag; it is nourished best by understanding of the ways of men.

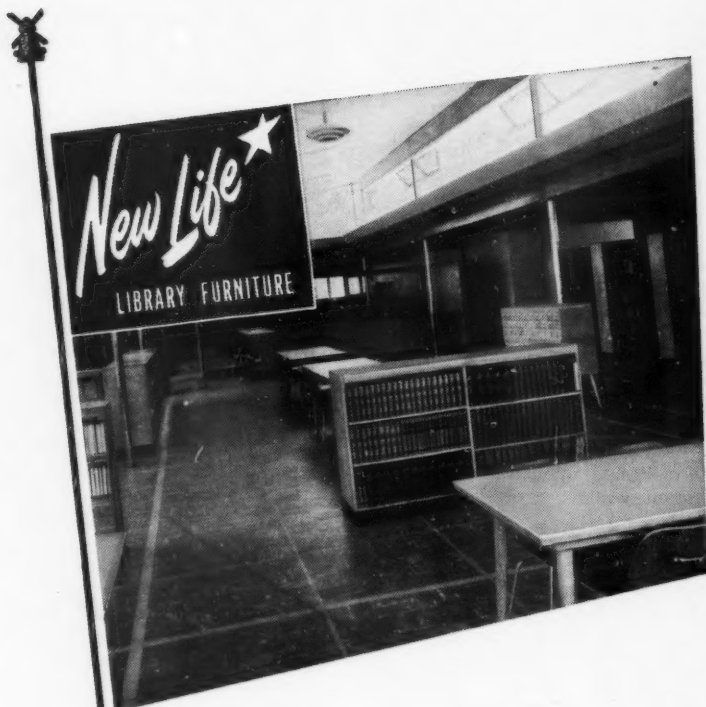
Many well-intentioned actions can work

against intellectual freedom. When we precipitously rush to censor, to boycott, to intimidate; when we employ authority rather than reason, when we are intolerant of opposition opinion, when we invoke fear instead of inquiry, when we encourage animus and otherwise depart the ways of fairness and goodness, we discourage mental venture and we fail to support intellectual freedom.

Freedom does not grow in relation to mechanical progress and material abundance. Our great acceleration of the means of communication has brought new threats to freedom as well as means for its protection. Superficially, the great increase in schooling and in literature, in radio, television and movie communication has enhanced learning and reduced ignorance. But actually, the increasing complexity of life has counterbalanced the simple gains in public information from all these media so that Americans are no better equipped to cope with their problems today than they were in the past, and perhaps they are less well equipped, for the base of democracy has been substantially broadened so that more minds act in our national judgments. And the voice of the demagogue has been amplified by a miracle of impartial science.

Young civilizations, because they have so recently wrested it from restraint, seem to know that courage is necessary for freedom. But later, when refinements and subtlety replace force in living, people think that they can preserve their freedoms by cunning and they let discretion keep them silent when freedom is under attack, so they will not be identified with faction and marked for its penalties. Freedom is often under attack in the name of patriotism, or liberty, or goodness or some other estimable quality. The silent adherents of freedom in these trials intend open support of their ideal eventually, but the lack of their voice in the theater of public action gives many victories to the champions of prejudice. Tardy dissent from these victories is only flowers on the dead.

Only learning can equip a people so they can judge issues and leaders for the preservation of their freedoms. Only courage can assure the exercise of their learning. People have always lost their freedoms and then begun again the long struggle to regain them. Time's challenge to Americans is to preserve their heritage. Freedom is the realm of the individual. When the state encroaches upon it for any cause, freedom dies a little.



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